

Amendments to the Claims

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-12 (canceled).

Claim 13 (previously presented). A clamping device for a closed forming tool, comprising:

a plurality of tension loops each having at least one tension frame with a closed contour, said tension frame having two mutually opposite segments each formed with at least one bearing surface and spaced apart at a spacing distance for receiving a forming tool therebetween, said tension loops being pivotally disposed about at least one articulated joint, and a material of said tension frame primarily consisting of a reinforced compound;

a bearing surface disposed above or on an upper surface of the forming tool for supporting said bearing surface of a respective said tension loop; and

a device for generating a clamping force of more than 3 MN, said device including a plurality of force-generating elements, and wherein the clamping force is applied between said bearing surface of each said tension loop and at least one surface area beneath the forming tool.

Claim 14 (previously presented). The clamping device according to claim 13, wherein the material of said tension frame primarily consists of materials having a tensile strength between 1500 N/mm^2 and 4200 N/mm^2 , an endurance strength of

between 1200 N/mm^2 and 3000 N/mm^2 and a density of between 1.2 g/cm^3 and 2.5 g/cm^3 .

Claim 15 (previously presented). The clamping device according to claim 13, wherein said device for generating the clamping force is disposed between said bearing surfaces of said tension loops and directly on the forming tool.

Claim 16 (previously presented). The clamping device according to claim 13, wherein the device for generating the clamping force is located between said bearing surfaces of said tension loops and indirectly on the forming tool.

Claim 17 (currently amended). The clamping device according to claim 13, wherein said force-generating elements of the device on the same tension loop being arranged so that ~~the~~ central force-applying lines of said ~~power-generating~~ force-generating elements of the device run substantially parallel and along a plane that is not substantially different from a plane axially parting said tension loop along a centerline ~~axial-direction~~ thereof.

Claim 18 (previously presented). The clamping device according to claim 17, wherein said force-generating elements of the device are one or a plurality of hydraulic high-pressure cylinders.

Claim 19 (previously presented). The clamping device according to claim 13, wherein at least one of said tension loops is movably disposed to shift towards the forming tool in an axial direction.

Claim 20 (previously presented). The clamping device according to claim 13, wherein said tension frame consists essentially of a nonmetal compound material with embedded reinforcements.

Claim 21 (previously presented). The clamping device according to claim 20, wherein said tension frames consist essentially of a carbon fiber compound.

Claim 22 (previously presented). The clamping device according to claim 21, wherein said carbon fiber compound comprises an intermodular fiber of a volume portion of fibers of approximately 50 - 65% in an epoxy resin matrix.

Claim 23 (canceled).

Claim 24 (currently amended). A device for producing metal parts by hydroforming, at least comprising a parted forming tool configured for hydroforming the metal parts and a clamping device according to claim 13.

Claim 25 (currently amended). A component part for a clamping device of an apparatus for producing plastic, metal, ceramic, or glass parts by forming processes with a closed forming tool, the component part comprising:

a tension loop having at least one tension frame with a closed contour, said tension frame having two mutually opposite segments each formed with at least one bearing surface and spaced apart at a spacing distance for receiving a forming tool

therebetween, and a material of said tension frame primarily consisting of a reinforced compound;

said bearing surface corresponding with a bearing surface above or beneath the tool and/or on a surface of the tool, one or a plurality of clamping forces of a total of at least 1 MN being applied to the component and acting between said bearing surface of said tension loop and at least one surface located underneath or above the tool, the clamping force or clamping forces acting on said tension loop such that a resulting force introduction line runs substantially parallel and in a plane that does not substantially differ from a plane parting said tension loop in a centerline axial direction thereof; and

wherein said tension loop is connected to at least one articulated joint enabling said tension loop to pivot towards the tool.

Claim 26 (canceled).

Claim 27 (currently amended). ~~The component part according to claim 25; A~~
component part for a clamping device of an apparatus for producing plastic, metal, ceramic, or glass parts by forming processes with a closed forming tool, the component part comprising:

a tension loop having at least one tension frame with a closed contour, said tension frame having two mutually opposite segments each formed with at least one bearing surface and spaced apart at a spacing distance for receiving a forming tool

therebetween, and a material of said tension frame primarily consisting of a reinforced compound;

said bearing surface corresponding with a bearing surface above or beneath the tool and/or on a surface of the tool, one or a plurality of clamping forces of a total of at least 1 MN being applied to the component and acting between said bearing surface of said tension loop and at least one surface located underneath or above the tool, the clamping force or clamping forces acting on said tension loop such that a resulting force introduction line runs substantially parallel and in a plane that does not substantially differ from a plane parting said tension loop in a centerline axial direction, and wherein said tension loop is mounted for shifting towards the tool.